



Child Development
and Early Education
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Pat McCrory
Governor

Richard O. Brajer
Secretary

Pamela L. Shue
Director

September 26, 2016

Dear County Directors of Social Services and Local Purchasing Agencies

Letter Number: SCCA DCDL 2016 - #04

Attention: Directors of County Departments of Social Services
Directors of Other Local Purchasing Agencies
Child Care Coordinators
Other DSS Personnel who work with the Subsidized Child Care Assistance Program

Subject: Developmental Screenings

The purpose of this Dear County Director Letter is to communicate changes to the Subsidized Child Care Assistance Program (SCCAP) regarding the development of procedures for providing information about and referring families to existing developmental screening services.

The North Carolina Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Plan requires states to provide consumer education information to families, the general public, and providers regarding developmental screenings. The Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) has adopted procedures that provide information on existing resources and services to support developmental screenings and providing referral services, including the use of Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) under Medicaid as well as section 619 and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Developmental Screening Objective

One of DCDEE's objectives is to improve the physical health, social, and emotional development of all children ages birth through 5 years by developing procedures for providing families with developmental screening information and how to refer families to existing developmental screening services.

DCDEE's responsibilities:

- DCDEE will provide to each Department of Social Services (DSS)/Local Purchasing Agency (LPA) with printed and online information about developmental milestones, monitoring, and screening.
- DCDEE will provide resource information about local community agencies such as health departments, Children's Developmental Services Agencies (CDSA), and Local Education Agencies (LEA) which providers and families can use to make referrals when there is a concern related to a child's development.
- DCDEE will distribute an addition to the provider agreement to all DSS/LPAs.



Department of Health and Human Services | Division of Child Development and Early Education
820 South Boylan Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27603 (Physical Address) | 2201 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2200 (Mailing Address)
919 527 6335 T | 1 800 859 0829 (Toll Free - In State Only)

DSS/LPA's responsibilities:

- Each DSS/LPA will distribute resource information from DCDEE to all providers.
- Each DSS/LPA will distribute the addition to the provider agreement to all subsidy providers and have them sign and return to DSS/LPA. Each DSS/LPA should collect the signed additions and ensure that all subsidy providers return the addition.

Providers' Responsibilities:

- Each provider will sign the provider agreement addition and return to DSS/LPA.
- Each provider will incorporate developmental monitoring into their conversations with families using information provided by their local DSS/LPA.
- Each provider will assist families with making referrals to community resources when there are developmental concerns.

If you have questions about the information in this letter, or other Subsidized Child Care Assistance Program questions, please contact dcdee.subsidy.policy.help@dhhs.nc.gov to reach technical assistance and policy consultation.

Sincerely,



Pamela L. Shue, Ed. D.
PS/TW
Attachments





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Additional Provider Agreement:

#33

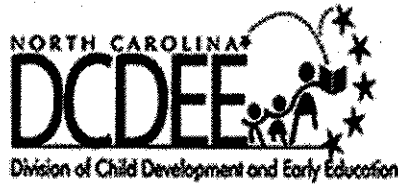
By signing below, I, _____, acknowledge and agree as follows:
[Provider's Printed Name]

I have received the flyers pertaining to developmental screenings and developmental milestones and information about referring families to existing developmental screening resources. I agree to use this information to discuss developmental monitoring and screening with the families that I serve. When concerns with the families that I serve become reasonably apparent to me, I will refer those families to developmental screening resources. I further agree to provide developmental screening information to families, including referral resources, in order to comply with federal regulations.

Provider signature: _____ Date: _____



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The Benefits of Developmental Monitoring and Screening for Young Children

WHO: Parents, Family Members, Child Care Providers, and other Caregivers

WHAT: What is Child Development?

Child Development refers to how a child grows which includes physical, social-emotional, cognitive, and language development.

What are the Developmental Milestones?

Skills like taking a first step, smiling at people, and waving goodbye and hello are called developmental milestones. How your child learns, speaks, and plays offers important clues about your child's development. Developmental milestones are things most children can do by a certain age.

What is a developmental delay?

A developmental delay is when your child does not reach developmental milestones around a certain age.

What is Developmental Screening?

Developmental screenings are ways that professionals can determine if a child is reaching developmental milestones or if they need additional support.

WHY: Why is Developmental Screening important?

Developmental screening is important because it can help you celebrate when your child meets his or her developmental milestones. It is also important because it can help you know if your child needs additional support. Earlier support can lead to better outcomes as your child grows.

HOW: If you have concerns or questions about your child's development and are interested in developmental screening, you can contact your child's pediatrician, your local Health Department, your local CDSA (Children's Developmental Services Agency), and for children 3 years and older, you can contact the Exceptional Children Department of your local school system. For additional information and resources for children of any ages, contact the ECAC (Exceptional Children's Assistance Center).

For additional Information about Developmental Monitoring and Screening please click on the following links.

For Parents, Family Members, other Caregivers, and Child Care Providers:

- [Milestone Moments - Learn the Signs. Act Early.](#)
- [NC Infant-Toddler Program Chart of Developmental Milestones](#)
- [Learn More About Your Child's Development: Developmental Monitoring and Screening](#)

For Child Care Providers:

- [Contact the Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) for Free Resources on Developmental Milestones](#)
- [Tips for Talking with Parents about Developmental Concerns](#)

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

The journey of your child's early years includes many developmental milestones for how he or she plays, learns, speaks, and acts.

Look inside to learn what to look for in your child. Talk with your child's doctor about these milestones.

Not reaching these milestones, or reaching them much later than other children, could be a sign of a developmental delay.

YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD BEST.

If you are concerned about your child's development, talk to the doctor.

If you or the doctor is still concerned, contact one of the agencies on the back of this brochure.

DON'T WAIT.

Acting early can make a real difference!

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For more information about what to do if you have a concern, contact your child's doctor or one of these agencies.



Parents as Teachers

A resource for parents of children from birth to 5 years of age. Call Parents as Teachers for information on parenting and child development.

314-432-4330

www.parentsteachers.org



A resource for parents of children from birth to 3 years of age. Call First Steps if you have a concern about a developmental delay or disability.

314-453-9203

<http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/FirstSteps>



Track Your Child's Developmental Milestones



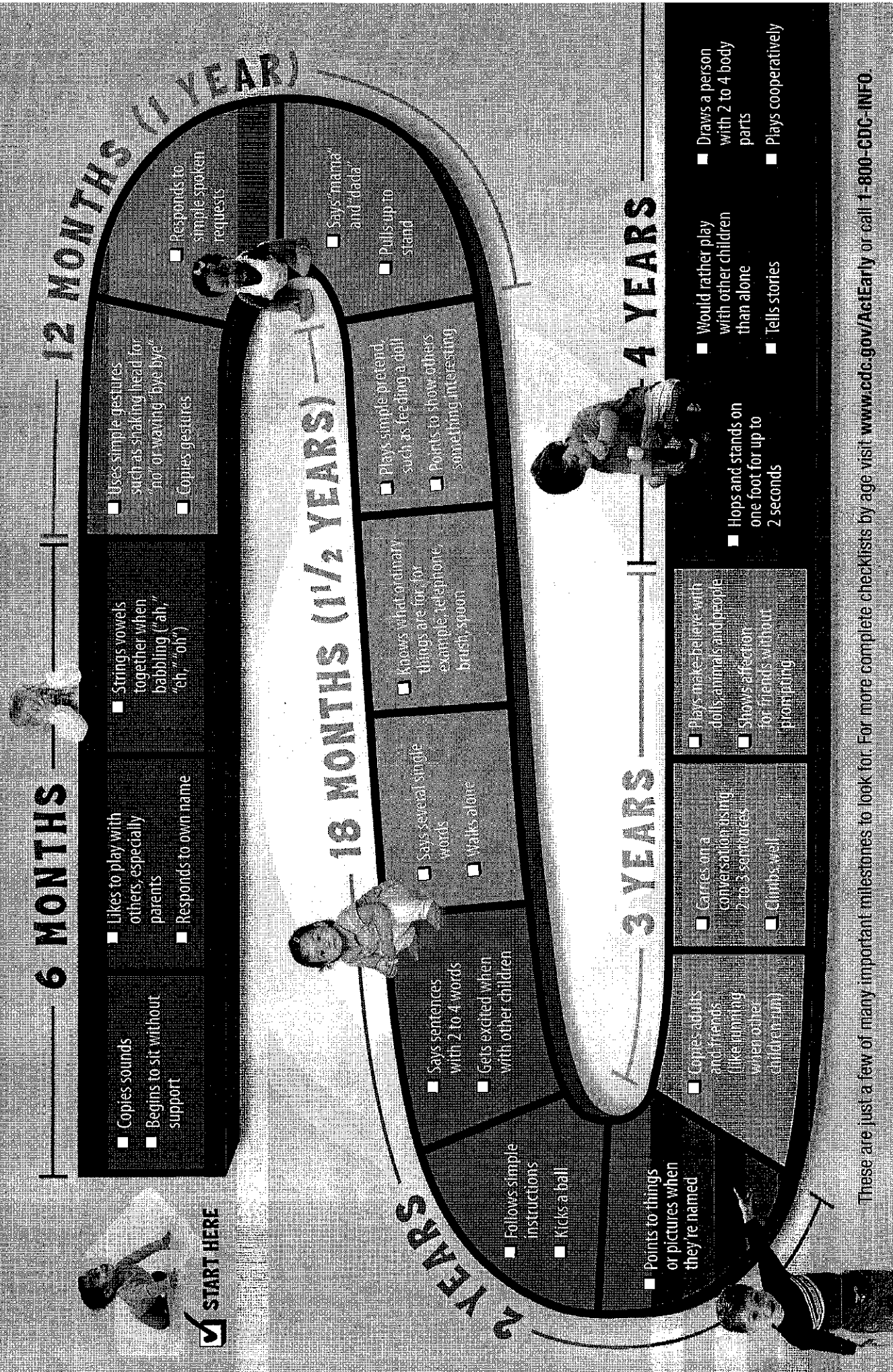
Your child's early development is a journey. Use this map of milestones to know what to look for along the way.

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

Your Child's Early Development is a Journey

Check off the milestones your child has reached and share your child's progress with the doctor at every visit.



These are just a few of many important milestones to look for. For more complete checklists by age visit www.cdc.gov/ActEarly or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.



exceptional children's
assistance center

North Carolina's Parent Training & Information Center (PTI)

...committed to improving the lives and education of ALL children!

ecac offers Parents of Children with Special Needs...

1. Individual assistance with educational concerns.
2. Parent education workshops on a variety of topics:
 - a. Parents' Rights and Education Laws (IDEA '04, NCLB, etc.)
 - b. Writing Effective IEPs (Individualized Education Programs)
 - c. Early Childhood Programs and Services (Birth to 3)
 - d. Transition to Preschool and Kindergarten
 - e. Becoming Your Child's Best Advocate
 - f. Positive Behavior Supports
 - g. Transition to Adulthood
 - h. Effective Communication Skills
 - i. Inclusion: Everybody Belongs!
 - j. Literacy for All!
 - k. Other topics as requested
3. Information Packets and referral services
4. Newsletter
5. Lending Library
6. IEP Partners
7. Parent to Parent Support
8. Information and assistance to parent groups



**All services are provided to NC parents
and families at no charge!**

For More Information, contact ecac:

Main Office: (704) 892-1321

Raleigh Office: (866) 740-4135 – toll-free

Western Office: (866) 545-5299 – toll-free

Eastern Office: (800) 782-2094 – toll-free

Parent Information Line: 1-800-962-6817

(Parents only please on the toll-free number)